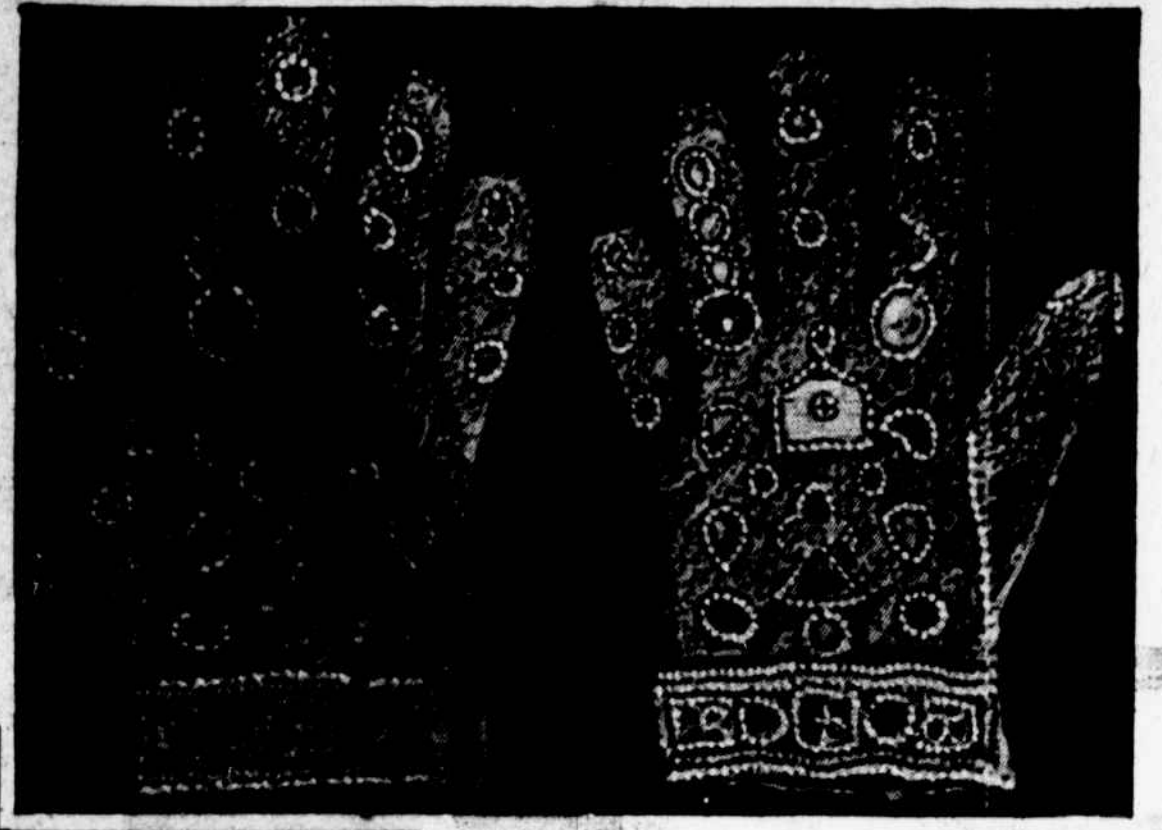
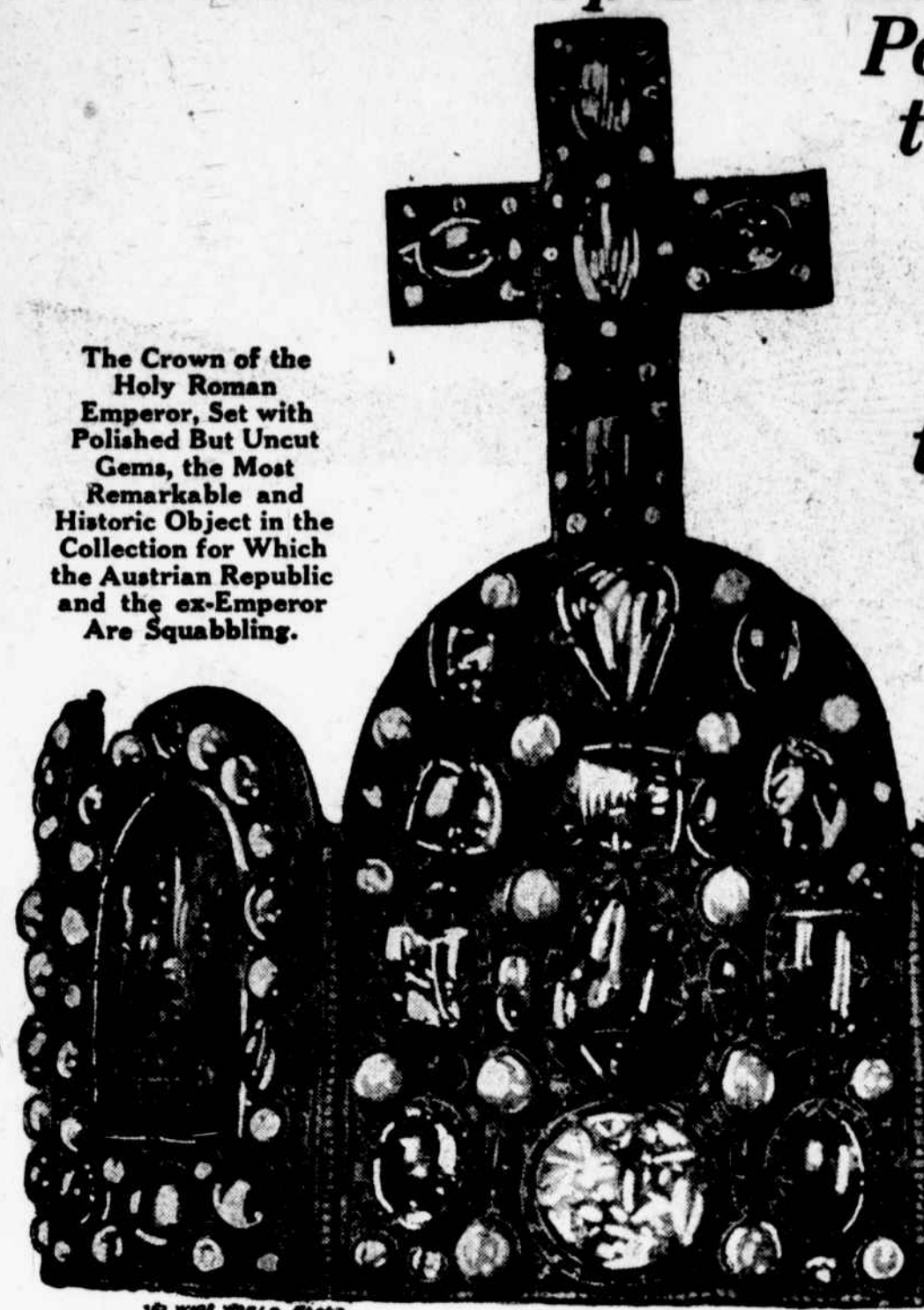


Why Ex-Emperor Karl With 94 Wagon-Loads of Treasure—

---Is So Hard Up That He Is Begging for Money to Pay His Board and Begins to Doubt If He Will Ever Get His Hands on the Priceless "Treasure of the Golden Fleece" the Allies Awarded Him

The Crown of the Holy Roman Emperor, Set with Polished But Uncut Gems, the Most Remarkable and Historic Object in the Collection for Which the Austrian Republic and the ex-Emperor Are Squabbling.



The Gloves Worn by the Emperor as Grand Master of the Golden Fleece.

"The crucifix," says the catalogue, "is ornamented with convex-shaped precious stones, sapphires and pearls, before which the newly appointed knight was required to take the oath."

"On the front there is a movable part covering a receptacle in which fragments of the true Cross are preserved. Both on the back and front of the base, the coat of arms of the founder of the order is engraved, and on both sides the emblems of the order are reproduced."

The badge of the order, which hangs down on the breast in front of the collar is a sheep's fleece irradiated by a mediaeval fire flint. The sheep's fleece is of diamonds and the rays of the flint are represented by rubies.

The mantle of a knight is of crimson velvet, on which the design of the fleece and the fire flint are repeated a hundred times.



Ancient Print in the Austrian Imperial Treasury, Showing the Emperor in Crown, Coronation Robes and Regalia.

pawned these jewels in order to pay for his recent futile effort to seize the crown of Hungary, and that that adventure is the cause of his present poverty and not any unreasonable meanness of the Government. The ex-Emperor in reply has declared that he only carried away what was strictly personal property, but here again the Gov-

A historic example belonging to one of the earliest knights is included in the treasure.

The treasure contains a great collection of paintings of Spanish and Flemish old masters, including such famous names as Velasquez and Van der Leyden. The total value of the treasure has never been estimated by an expert, but it undoubtedly runs into many millions of dollars.

The other objects in the Austrian Imperial Treasury form the most interesting collection of crown jewels in existence. Chief among them is the crown of "the Holy Roman Emperor," the title formerly borne by the Austrian rulers as head of all the German states. Napoleon Bonaparte ended the use of this title. The crown is of Byzantine design and is of pure gold adorned with polished uncut precious stones in an elaborate filigree setting. The coronation robes accompanying this crown are of eleventh century Saracen creation and tremendously valuable.

There is a separate crown known as the Austrian imperial crown. This is extraordinarily rich in jewels. It is mainly ornamented with diamonds, pearls and rubies. Upon its summit is the finest sapphire in existence. It is recorded that this crown cost 700,000 thalers 350 years ago.

Among the most remarkable objects in the Imperial Treasury are a piece of the table cloth used at the Last Supper, a piece of the Holy Apron used by the Savior when washing the feet of the Apostles, a fragment of Christ's manger and a tooth of St. John the Baptist.

It is significant that in an official catalogue issued before the war it is stated that the Austrian imperial crown and a number of other jewels are "the private property of the imperial house." The jewels hurried away by ex-Emperor Karl in his baggage came from this section of the treasury.

Conspicuous among these family jewels is the great "Florentine diamond," which is now set in the form of a hat buckle. It weighs 133½ carats and is one of the largest in existence. It originally belonged to Charles the Bold of Burgundy, who lost it in battle. It was picked up by a soldier and sold for fifty cents.

It passed into the possession of the great Medici family at Florence, from whom it received its name. The first Austrian sovereign to wear them was the popular Empress Maria Theresa.

Of equally great historic interest are the magnificent bridal jewels of the unhappy Queen Marie Antoinette, entirely adorned with rubies. Although she lost her life her jewels were smuggled back to her family in Austria and used by subsequent Austrian empresses.

According to some of his friends, the ex-Emperor carried away barely enough of those jewels to pay for his disastrous flying machine trip to Hungary. As he struggles to meet the butchers' and grocers' bills accumulated by his wife and six children at Madeira, and thinks of that vast store of lost wealth, his feelings must be very unhappy.

THE former Emperor and Empress of Austria, Karl and Zita, who were exiled on the island of Madeira after their recent spectacular effort to crawl back on the throne, are now penniless.

Although ex-Emperor Karl has been awarded by the Allies the priceless "Treasure of the Golden Fleece" he cannot pay his board bill. Even though he is the owner of ninety-four wagon loads of inestimable treasures, Karl and his imperial wife have been forced to leave the villa he was living in in Funchal, Madeira, and they have taken an old house on the top of the mountain, where the rent is free. The doors and windows are shaky, the plastering is cracked and the couple sleep in a tiny room, which is the only bedroom safe from the intrusion of the rain.

Nowhere in the world is there such an extraordinary anomaly as this penniless owner of this priceless treasure which the Austrian Republic is holding onto while the exiled Emperor and his wife are dependant upon charity for the roof over their heads and their three frugal meals a day.

The Order of the Golden Fleece is one of the oldest orders of knighthood in Europe, having been founded by Duke Philip the Good of Burgundy in 1430. In age it ranks after the English Order of the Garter and Order of the Bath, but in preservation of its original treasures and its original mediaeval ceremonial the Golden Fleece surpassed all others.

Most of the famous kings and princes of Europe for the last five hundred years have been Knights of the Golden Fleece. Such famous historical characters as the Emperor Charles V., Charles the Bold of Burgundy, King Philip II. of Spain, the cruel Duke of Alva, King Louis XIV. of France, Caesar Borgia and scores of others have worn its badge.

The Duke Philip the Good of Burgundy, who founded the order, was a great sovereign whose territories included Burgundy and the Low Countries—Belgium and Holland. He ordained that the office of Grand Master of the Order of the Golden Fleece should be hereditary in his descendants. With the death of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, in 1477, the male line of Burgundy came to an end. His heiress, Mary, married the Emperor Maximilian of Austria and Germany, and with her passed the possession of Belgium and Holland and the office of Grand Master of the Order of the Golden Fleece. But at this time the treasure of the Golden Fleece remained in Belgium.

The order was the most prized decoration of the richest civilization in Europe at that time. All the wonderful art of Flanders and the Low Countries in the period of the Renaissance were employed in enriching the badges, insignia, emblems and chapter house of the order. Thus it was that the so-called "treasure of the order" became the richest collection of its kind in the world and remains so to-day.

The Emperor Maximilian's crown, and with it the Order of the Golden Fleece passed to his grandson, the famous Emperor Charles V., who ruled over more territory than any man in history. His possessions included Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, all of North and South America and all of Asia.

The chapter house of the Golden Fleece still remained at Bruges in Belgium. When the young Emperor, after his coronation, entered Antwerp and other cities of the Netherlands, with ceremonies of indescribable splendor, he wore the collar of the Golden Fleece upon his armor and the knights and their banners formed the richest feature of the public processions, al-



Ex-Emperor Karl, Looking Like an Italian Laborer, in Exile at Madeira, with His Wife, Zita.

though the slightly draped maidens may have attracted more attention.

The Emperor Charles V.'s dominions proved too great a burden for one monarch. At his death Germany passed to one son and Spain, the Netherlands and the colonies went to another. The lordship of the Golden Fleece naturally went to the Spanish King with the Netherlands. But in the middle of the eighteenth century the Spanish Hapsburg family died out in the male line and the chieftaincy of the famous order passed by male descent to the Austrian Emperor, then called "the Holy Roman Emperor."

The subsequent Spanish kings were so much attached to their ancient association with the Order of the Golden Fleece that a Spanish branch of the order was founded. This still flourishes, but up to the war was regarded as slightly secondary to the Austrian order.

In the eighteenth century the Austrian rulers caused the famous treasure of the order to be removed from Bruges, its original home in Belgium, to Brussels, the capital of the country.

Then came the tremendous upheaval of the French Revolution and the Emperor and the Knights of the Golden Fleece realized that their treasure was in danger from the hungry and ragged democrats at Paris.

It was then that the immense size and value of the treasure became known to the world.

"The treasure," says a historian, "filled



The Emperor Charles V., the Exiled Emperor's Most Famous Ancestor, Entering Antwerp, Wearing the Collar of the Golden Fleece Over His Armor.

ninety-four wagons, consisting of jewels, insignia, regalia, plate, armor and church ornaments, including a golden crucifix, in which was imbedded a piece of the true Cross, on which the knights of the order were sworn in. There were also manuscripts and great quantity of magnificent tapestries."

The procession of ninety-four wagons started off on a long and circuitous route to Vienna just in time to escape a raid by a dashing band of French revolutionists. That was in 1792. Since then the treasure of the order has been carefully guarded at Vienna. Some of the more precious objects were kept in the Imperial Treasury at Vienna with the crown jewels, where they could be better guarded. The other objects, such as the throne and chains of the knights, pictures, armor, tapestries and so forth were in the chapter house of the order, where the Emperor presided at the admission of new knights.

Then came the catastrophe of the great war, which completely wrecked Austria and the very old Hapsburg family. Under the peace treaty it was provided that Austria should restore to various countries the vast art collections which she had wrested from them by military and political pressure. This was principally designed to restore to Italy the art treasures of which Austria had stripped her at various times.

Under this provision, however, Belgium laid claim to the treasure of the Golden Fleece on the ground that it originally had its headquarters in Belgium and was essentially a creation of ancient Belgian art.

The Allies appointed a special tribunal to consider this curious claim. It consisted of an American lawyer and army officer, Hugh A. Bayne, of the firm of

Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft, a Paris lawyer, Jacques Lyon, and an English barrister, P. Fisher Williams. After nearly a year's investigation, during which they delved into historical records running back for 500 years, they decided that the treasure of the Golden Fleece passed by the universally recognized laws of inheritance to the head of the Hapsburg family, now represented by ex-Emperor Karl, and that there was no ground for awarding the treasure to Belgium.

But the tribunal made no attempt to restore the treasure to ex-Emperor Karl. That was left as an Austrian internal affair, to be settled between the new Austrian Government and its former monarch. Will he ever get the treasure or any part of its value? It does not seem probable, although there is no doubt that he will make every effort to do so, especially as he is reported to be reduced to absolute poverty.

The new Austrian Government is somewhat Socialistic, and is also regarded as being not far from bankruptcy. It will probably settle any controversy with the ex-Emperor in the most favorable manner to itself.

There are good grounds for regarding the treasure of the Golden Fleece as semi-public property, evidenced by the fact that its most precious possessions have been kept in the Imperial Treasury with the crown jewels.

The Austrian Government asserts that the crown jewels are public property, paid for with the taxes and revenues of the Austrian people. It also charges that the ex-Emperor Karl, in his hasty flight from Vienna after the revolution, carried away surreptitiously some of these crown jewels.

The value of the jewels carried away has been recently estimated at \$1,000,000,000, but there is no reliable expert valuation of them. The Austrian Government asserts that he

ernment is likely to settle the controversy for its own benefit.

A pending lawsuit shows that the ex-Emperor pledged the jewels he carried away with a Swiss bank and that at present he is penniless.

The precious objects in the collection called "the treasure of the Golden Fleece" would need a volume to describe them fully. One of the most valuable objects is the collar or "potence" of the herald of the order, which bears enameled medallions emblazoned with the arms of the original knights. This is not only valuable on account of the great amount of gold and precious stones it contains, but because it is a fine specimen of Flemish art of the best period. The official description of this object says:

"This magnificent gold chain, styled the 'Potence,' was worn by the king-at-arms or chief herald of the Order of the Golden Fleece (who bore the official name of Tolson d'Or) at festivals celebrated by the order. It was worn round the shoulders, the Golden Fleece itself resting on the middle of the breast.

"This remarkable relic consists of a gold collar to the lower edge of which the chain of the Fleece is attached. The collar itself is in two rows and is composed of twenty-six oblong-shaped links, slightly convex on the upper surfaces and with their longer sides adjacent to each other. The links are fastened together by means of a corresponding number of movable joints or hinges, and it is to the lower and projecting pivots of these that the aforesaid chain of the Fleece is fixed.

"On each of the twenty-six links there are two escutcheons placed one above the other, emblazoned in colored enamel with the coats-of-arms of former knights of the order."

The crucifix used in the ceremonies of the order is another object of immense value, not only because of its precious materials, but because it contains one of the best authenticated pieces of the true Cross in existence.